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COMPARATIVE INDICATORS OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER G-8 COUNTRIES: 2009

U.S. Department of Education, National Center of Education Statistics, March 2009

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009039>

This report describes how the education system in the United States compares with education systems in the other G-8 countries -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom. Twenty-seven indicators are organized in five sections: (1) population and school enrollment; (2) academic performance (including subsections for reading, mathematics, and science); (3) context for learning; (4) expenditure for education; and (5) education returns: educational attainment and income.

THE COSTS OF INACTION: THE URGENT NEED FOR HEALTH REFORM

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 2009

<http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/inaction/inactionreportprintmarch2009.pdf>

Americans across the country are demanding comprehensive health reform and cannot afford to wait any longer, according to the study. More and more Americans find themselves uninsured. Those Americans fortunate enough to have health insurance often don't get the quality care they need and deserve. The study highlights the flaws in the health care system and demonstrates the cost of maintaining the status quo.

EDUCATION WATCH: TRACKING ACHIEVEMENT, ATTAINMENT, AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Education Trust, March 31, 2009

<http://www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/Press+Room/EdWatch2009.htm>

To measure how effectively states are using the infusion of federal support, the public will need accurate, reliable data. The report assembles some of the most critical indicators of student achievement, attainment, and opportunity, providing a state-by-state snapshot of public education in America. The data reveals which states are farthest along the course, which are gaining on those leaders, and which are barely out of the starting blocks.

FROM CAMPAIGNING TO GOVERNING: POLITICS AND POLICYMAKING IN THE NEW OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Brookings Institution, April 21, 2009

http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2009/0421_governance_mann.aspx

Barack Obama's impressive victory in the 2008 American elections, the most decisive win for a new Democratic president since Franklin Roosevelt's in the depths of the Great Depression, raised high expectations – in the United States and around the globe – for significant changes in politics and policymaking.

IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS

Migration Policy Institute, April 2009

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=723>

Immigration flows to the United States have noticeably slowed in the last year, raising fundamental questions for policymakers and analysts about the effect the current economic crisis is having on inflows and return migration. These questions appear particularly daunting because there has been no comparable crisis in recent memory.

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY: 2008

U.S. Department of Education, National Center of Education Statistics, April 2009

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009022.pdf>

A joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, this annual report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It provides the most current detailed statistical information to inform the Nation on the nature of crime in schools.

THE INTERNET'S ROLE IN CAMPAIGN 2008

Pew Internet and American Life Project, April 15, 2009

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2009/6--The-Internets-Role-in-Campaign-2008/2--The-State-of-Online-Politics.aspx?r=1>

Three-quarters (74%) of internet users went online during the 2008 election to take part in, or get news and information about the 2008 campaign. This represents 55% of the entire adult population, and marks the first time the Pew Internet & American Life Project has found that more than half the voting-age population used the internet to connect to the political process during an election cycle.

JOB SPRAWL REVISITED: THE CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF METROPOLITAN EMPLOYMENT

Brookings Institution, April 6, 2009

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0406_job_sprawl_kneebone/20090406_jobsprawl_kneebone.pdf

An analysis of the spatial location of private-sector jobs in 98 of the largest metropolitan areas by employment reveals that only 21 percent of employees in the top 98 metro areas work within three miles of downtown, while over twice that share, 45 percent, work more than 10 miles away from the city center. The larger the metro area, the more likely people are to work more than 10 miles away from downtown; almost 50 percent of jobs in larger metros like Detroit, Chicago, and Dallas locate more than 10 miles away on average compared to just 27 percent of jobs in smaller metros like Lexington-Fayette, Boise, and Syracuse.

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS: SUMMARY

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 26, 2009

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/forbrn.nr0.htm>

In 2008, 24.1 million persons, or 15.6 percent of the U.S. civilian labor force age 16 and over, were foreign born. The unemployment rate for the foreign born was 5.8 percent in 2008, up from 4.3 percent in 2007. The jobless rate of the native born also increased to 5.8 percent in 2008; it was 4.7 percent in the prior year.

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Center for American Progress, April 16, 2009

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/pdf/immigrant_integration.pdf

The United States and the European Union share much in common, including a similar religious and cultural heritage, strong democratic institutions, and a commitment to civil society. One thing they do not share, however, is a common set of political attitudes and attendant policies on how best to integrate immigrant and minority groups into their larger societies. Intriguingly, though, policymakers in the United

States and Europe could learn a great deal from each other as they tackle this issue -- one of the more important challenges of the 21st century. As this paper will demonstrate, our different views and actions on integration -- derived from unique historical experiences -- provide lessons for both sides of the Atlantic.

MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008

Pew Hispanic Center, April 15, 2009

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/47.pdf>

A record 12.7 million Mexican immigrants lived in the United States in 2008, a 17-fold increase since 1970. Mexicans now account for 32% of all immigrants living in the U.S. The second-largest nationality group of immigrants, Filipinos, accounts for just 5% of all immigrants in the U.S.

PHILANTHROPY ANNUAL: 2008 REVIEW

The Foundation Center, March 26, 2009

<http://foundationcenter.org/philanthropyannual/philanthropyannual2008.pdf>

The annual includes interviews with leaders in the field, commentary by respected thinkers, and key statistics on foundation giving.

A PORTRAIT OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Pew Hispanic Center, April 14, 2009

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1190/portrait-unauthorized-immigrants-states>

Unauthorized immigrants living in the United States are more geographically dispersed than in the past and are more likely than either U.S.-born residents or legal immigrants to live in a household with a spouse and children. In addition, a growing share of the children of unauthorized immigrant parents, 73%, were born in this country and are U.S. citizens.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2007

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2009

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswp2007.pdf>

In 2007, according to the Census Bureau, 37.3 million people, or 12.5 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty level. Although the nation's poor were primarily children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, 7.5 million were among the "working poor." This level is slightly higher than the level reported in 2006. The working poor are individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level.

PUSH FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM GROWS, BUT SEVERAL OBSTACLES REMAIN

The Migration Policy Institute, April 15, 2009

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?ID=724>

The Obama administration plans to address the nation's immigration policy in the coming months and may begin discussions for legislation to reform the US immigration system. Immigrant advocates and Latino organizations are renewing national campaigns in support of "comprehensive immigration reform" -- broad legislation that would include a path to legal status for many of the nation's estimated 12 million unauthorized immigrants.

THE SOCIAL ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, April 2009

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_560.pdf

According to the report, if jobs can be provided to the unemployed, inequality and poverty will be reduced, although such policy will not directly address the problem of excessive income at the top of the

distribution. President Roosevelt's New Deal jobs programs, such as the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, are good examples of such targeted job-creating programs. These provided income and employment for workers, actually helped increase the nation's productivity, and left us with public buildings, dams, trails, and even music that we still enjoy today.

YOUNG MUSLIM-AMERICAN VOICES: YOUNG MUSLIM-AMERICAN CALLS FOR INCLUSION AND RESPECT

Center for American Progress, April 2, 2009

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/ghori_ahmad_interview.html

Safiya Ghori-Ahmad is Muslim Public Affairs Council's government relations director. She talks with Sally Steenland of Center for American Progress' Faith and Progressive Policy Initiative about the challenges facing Muslim Americans in a post 9-11 nation, the images of Muslims in the media, and her community's hopes for the new administration.

All previous web alerts can be found at:
<http://france.usembassy.gov/politics-alert.html>